Dear Parents,

This Friday we are celebrating the important role Grandparents play in our lives. Italians have a cherished proverb that says, “If nothing is going well, call your grandmother.”

Grandparents have the experience and knowledge that come from surviving a great many years of life’s battles and, hopefully, they have the wisdom to know when to share this experience and knowledge with their grandchildren. Jimmy Carter once observed that, “Because grandparents are free to love, guide and befriend young people without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out beyond pride and fear of failure and close the gap between generations.”

Besides being the keepers of family traditions and history, grandparents provide grandchildren with examples of hard work and family loyalty. Grandparents’ stories contribute to family identity by sharing knowledge about relatives, important events, family traditions, the grandparent’s childhood and the childhood of the grandchild’s parent. As these stories are passed on, the grandchild can gain a positive image of their place within the family and a positive image of ageing.

When we become parents, we automatically give our parents a new position in life, that of being grandparents. At the same time, we give our child the added security of belonging to an extended family. The relationship between grandchild and grandparent can be very life-enhancing: a grandchild can bring love, energy, optimism, laughter, youthfulness and sometimes purpose to the life of their grandparent. At the same time, a grandparent can provide maturity, knowledge, stability, a wise ear and unconditional love to a grandchild.

Nowadays, being a grandparent might not be as simple as you would like due to divorce, remarriage or geographic distance. However, whether you are a grandparent, step-grandparent or even a grandparent raising a grandchild, you are a most important person in your grandchild’s life and, as you well know, it’s not only Italians who ring their grandmother when things aren’t going so well.

“God, Father of us all, we are thankful for our life and for the privilege to be parents and grandparents. We pray for patience, guidance and wisdom to use our life’s role, for our own benefit and the benefit and enjoyment of our extended family. Amen.”

I know everyone is looking forward to an enjoyable Athletics Carnival tomorrow and we welcome some friendly competition from our neighbouring Catholic school, St Patrick’s, Walcha. It looks like it will be fine but very cold so remember to provide extra warm clothing for your children. Hopefully, the activities will keep them warm. Please return your permission notes for your child to participate and to be transported by bus. I look forward to seeing you at the Uralla Sports Complex at 9:30am to cheer your children on.

In Christ’s peace,
John Phillips
Principal
SCHOOL MASSES
There will be a whole school Mass this Friday at 9:10am. This Mass will be our celebration of the Feast Day of our patroness St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. It will also be offered in honour of all our grandparents. All families, grandparents and friends are welcome.

REC NEWS
Please continue to pray for our students Zoe Walters and Rumiya McGuiness-Bullock, and students from the Parish community, as they prepare for their First Holy Communion on Sunday 23.8.15.

Yours in peace
Anne Kelly

REC
WE NEED YOUR HELP DANIEL TO GET TO MELBOURNE - PLEASE BUY A RAFFLE TICKET!
As a school community we would like to support Daniel and his family in their fundraising efforts to cover the very expensive costs of travel, uniforms, accommodation and levies when he heads off to the National Primary Schools Cross Country championships in Melbourne from 28th to 31st August.

The NSW PSSA has supplied Daniel with several raffle books which he needs to sell to fund his representative run in Melbourne. **We are selling tickets at the school office on Daniel's behalf at a cost of $2 each.** We are asking each family to buy as many as they possibly can (aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends included). Please send in your money in an envelope with your names and we will send your tickets home.

**THESE FANTASTIC PRIZES COULD BE YOURS!**
1st prize: Laptop Notebook Computer
2nd prize: LED TV (approx. 25”)
3rd prize: iPod Shuffle
4th prize: iPod Shuffle
5th prize: iPod Shuffle

Tickets will be on sale in the office up to this Friday 7 August.

PT&F CORNER

**Athletics Carnival**
We require Volunteers for the Athletics Carnival tomorrow Thursday 6th August 2015. Could all families please supply a cake or slice to sell on this day.
If anyone is also available we will require support on the day to help with all aspects for a successful day.
A full BBQ will be operating for lunch for the kids as well as adults. **Thank you to those families who assisted us by pre-ordering their hot food items.** If anyone did not get their order in, we will have a few spare steaks and sausages on a first come first served basis. The canteen will be offering the following:

- **Steak Sandwich** (onion/coleslaw optional) $5
- **Sausage Sandwich** $3
- **Drinks/Popper/ Milo,Tea or Coffee** $2
- **Cake/slice** $1

Other snacks such as chips & lollies will be available for purchase at $0.50. Hope to see you all there to enjoy the fun in the sun, cheering our kids !!!!

If you are unable to attend our meetings but would like to know what is going on, copies of the minutes from our meetings are available in the office at any time.

*Kathy Dodd (President) Phone 6778 4774 or Mob. 0423 418 467*
CURRICULUM CORNER

A Lens on Scientific Inquiry - in Action - in our Playground - by the Students!

If you have taken a walk in the school grounds lately, you will have noticed a major construction taking place in the dirt patch near the canteen. You may have also noticed (or frowned upon!) your child coming home with muddy shoes, pants and fingernails and wondering what is going on in the playground?

I too have observed with curiosity the play space formation: witnessed the students busily working in the soil, been asked for watering cans of water, stepped over the muddy shoes at the door (and even washed a mud smeared jumper or too when the boys arrive home from school!) While on duty one day, I actually stood back and really surveyed what was going on!

Modern, relevant, experience based inquiry learning teamed with a highly sophisticated system of assembly, teamwork and productivity is what is going on! However to understand the educational value of this experience and appreciate its cognitive, academic and truly experimental value one has to look at its origins…

It all began last term in the PLS inquiry unit: Water in Our World. Students chose a line of inquiry that covered the Science and Technology, and HSIE outcomes by posing a question that they wished to investigate and hypothesise with. Fascinated with the recent floods and damage that they cause, Ronald Boxsell in Year 5 posed the question “How do rivers form and where does the water go?” After producing a report detailing his research, he then designed a series of mini rivers that weaved and bended down the side of the dirt area splitting and joining up at various points. He, along with the class as well, predicted where the water would travel based on the shapes of the rivers and the fall of the land. The water was poured down the entry point of the river and we stood and observed the path the water took… To our surprise the water did not always travel where we predicted.

And as they say … the rest is history! School resumed in Term 3 and students were eager to continue the river design and incorporate the research investigations of those that looked at dams. It is amazing to witness knowledge and skills, inspiration and inquiry transfer from the classroom to everyday life! Well done students!

Kelly Walters
Project Teacher

The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.
C. S. Lewis
ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at last Friday’s Assembly.

The Principal’s Awards for “Using technology responsibly to learn” went to:

**Primary**   S.W.

**Infants**  Matilda Boxsell

Class Awards went to:

**Primary**  Georgia White for “Persistence in Maths activities”.

**Infants**  Mariah Carlon for “Consistent effort”.

MiniLit Awards for completing Level 1: Mariah Carlon, Brittany Doran, M.W., Charlotte Fletcher & Etan Walters.

There will be no assembly this Friday due to our grandparents day and book fair taking up most of the day. Our next assembly will be held on Friday 14 August at 2:45pm. We will be presenting the medals and trophies from the Athletics Carnival. All welcome.

Dates to Remember

**Thurs 6 Aug:** School Athletics Carnival (Walcha coming to Uralla)

**Fri 7 Aug:** Grandparents Day & Book Fair starting with Mass at 9:10am

**Sun 23 Aug:** First Eucharist 8:00am

**Tue 25 Aug:** “Jumpstart” Dress Rehearsal

**Thurs 27 & Fri 28 Aug:** “Jumpstart” Matinee & Sat 29 Aug: “Jumpstart” evening performances

**Fri 28 Aug & Sat 29 Aug:**

DETAILED LETTER TO BE SENT HOME NEXT WEEK

**Fri 18 Sep:** Term 3 ends

**Tue 6 Oct:** Term 4 begins

**Mon 10 Aug:** Amanda Murrell

**5 Aug:** Jack Young

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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